

Environmental Justice Forum

Purpose: to advance collaborative efforts made by EPA Region 6 and its state, tribal and local partners working together with regulated entities and our communities to improve air, land and water where people live, work and play.

June 12-13, 2018

11:00 am to 1:00 pm Registration

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Opening Remarks, Introductions, Remarks by the RA

1:30 – 3:00 **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)/Quapaw Nation of Oklahoma**

Presentation: Tar Creek; History of the site from both tribal and state perspective; History of how the tribe, other tribes, state, and federal government worked together on a complex, multi-jurisdictional, highly contaminated site; perspective of the community on how all distinct governments worked together.

Presenters:

Trevor Hammons, ODEQ

Tim Kent, Quapaw Tribe

Rebecca Jim, Executive Director, Local Environmental Action Demanded (L.E.A.D) Agency

3:00 -3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:45 **Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)**

Presentation: Success in the Making: The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Blytheville

Asbestos is a naturally occurring material that was used to strengthen many manufactured products, mostly in building materials. Though not so common today, asbestos still is used and is found in many older structures across the United States. In Arkansas, many cities and towns are having to deal with the issue of dilapidated residential and commercial structures in their communities, possibly constructed with asbestos containing materials. The City of Blytheville is one of the many Arkansas cities dealing with this issue. Blytheville has approximately 200 condemned and dilapidated structures, primary residential, that needed a plan. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, along with Blytheville Mayor, James Sanders, will present information on the issue, the possible solutions, and the path forward to a successful solution for the City of Blytheville.

Presenters:

Demetria Kimbrough, Enforcement/Asbestos Branch Manager, ADEQ
James Sanders, Mayor, City of Blytheville

4:45 -5:00 Announcements/ End-of-Day Wrap up

5:00-6:00 Meet and Greet

June 13, 2018

8:00 am to 8:30 am Registration

8:30 – 8:45 Welcome/ Summary of Day One, Look ahead for Day 2

8:45- 10:15 **New Mexico Environment Department**

Presentation: The Merger of Small Water Systems in Rural New Mexico

After years of separate ownership and administration by five mutual domestic water consumer associations in southern New Mexico, citizens and legislators worked to create state law to approve an umbrella association with membership from individual systems in order to apply for and administer regional funding. This merger of systems allowed for shared resources (operators, consultants, attorneys, etc.) to reduce costs and increase knowledge base. Now ten water systems have joined the Authority. Come hear lessons learned about issues such as treatment of naturally exceeding arsenic, gaining legislative support, and performing Joint infrastructure capital improvements plan, etc.

Presenters: Kathryn Becker – NMED, Assistant General Counsel & Tribal Liaison
Steven Deal – NMED, Engineer with the Construction Program Bureau
Karen Nichols, Project Manager for the Lower Rio Grande Public Water Works Authority

Bobbie Boyer, current member of Authority and member of an original water system that consolidated

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:00 Presentation (NEED GENERAL TITLE)

Benefits of Air Monitoring in Environmental Justice Communities

Air monitoring programs, in environmental justice communities, for specific chemicals known to be associated with industrial facilities and/or contaminated sources, have resulted in environmental justice

communities gaining knowledge of the levels and existence of contaminants in their air.

The information on air contaminants and associated health conditions associated with the chemicals has allowed the environmental justice communities to work with federal, state and local governmental agencies and the industries to address their situations and reduce their exposure. Environmental justice communities in St. Rose and St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana, Crossett, Arkansas and Eight Mile, Alabama have used air monitoring data to address their specific issues and exposures associated with the chemicals being released into their air.

Presenter: Wilma Subra – Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN)

Fort Worth – Getting the Lead Out

The presentation provides an overview of Fort Worth's Lead Replacement Program. The program includes documenting the inventory with pipe material on the private and public side for more than 255,000 customer meters (commercial and residential). Determine how replacement of lead services are scheduled in the system (i.e., routine maintenance, capital improvement plans). Also, how the utility actively and transparently communicates with customers about lead risks.

Presenter: Stacey Walters- City of Fort Worth – Water Department

Opportunities to Address Historic Environmental Injustice: Lessons from the Corpus Christi Harbor Bridge Settlement

While there have been bumps along the road, the Harbor Bridge Civil Rights settlement has largely been a success. Owners of over 300 of the 450 properties eligible for the relocation program have expressed interest in participating and over 100 have already relocated. Reports indicate that people are happy with their new homes. What factors lead to the settlement and what lessons have been learned?

Presenter: Kelly Haragan - Clinical Professor and Director of the Environmental Clinic at the University of Texas School of Law

12N -1:15 pm

Lunch

1:15- 2:45

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Hurricane Harvey – The State and Federal Environmental Response and Community Perspective

Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 25, 2017 at 10:00 p.m. CT, as a Category 4 storm near Rockport, Texas and stalled over southeastern Texas. Due to its slow motion and a week-long period of onshore flow, more than 19 trillion gallons of rainwater fell on parts of Texas causing catastrophic flooding. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal and state agencies, deployed staff and assets post-landfall to assist with recovery efforts. Approximately 500 TCEQ staff were involved in post hurricane landfall response and recovery at its peak.

An overview of the TCEQ and EPA efforts in pre-landfall preparations and post-landfall response and community perspective will be the focus of this presentation.

Presenters:

Kelly Cook, Division Director, Critical Infrastructure Division, TCEQ
Mr. Hilton Kelley, Director, Community In Power and Development Association (CIDA)
Ronnie Crossland, EPA

2:45 – 3:00

Break

3:00 -4:30

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)

Presentation: St. Rose

Saint Rose (St. Rose) located on the East Bank of the Mississippi River in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, has a population of 6,540 residents, and is part of the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area. In 2014, the local group St. Rose Community One Voice and other environmental advocates initiated H2S odor complaints surrounding the International-Matex Tank Terminal (IMTT) facility and Shell Refinery. As a result of the complaints, EPA and LDEQ performed several monitoring events. The refinery agreed to no longer process a crude believed to cause the odor and IMTT installed a secondary control system on a regenerative thermal oxidizer.

Presenters –

LDEQ -

Mr. Keith Adams, President, St. Rose community One Voice

4:30 – 5:00

Closing remarks/ Wrap up

[HYPERLINK "https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epa-region-6-environmental-justice-forum-tickets-43477769178" \t "_blank"]

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